

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Cancelled).

2-17 (Cancelled).

1 18 (Currently Amended). A reproduction apparatus providing reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data recording medium and which express a single original signal, the apparatus comprising:
2 means for detecting medium protection data which are respectively specific
3 to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data,
4 which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a
5 medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also
6 conveyed by said data recording medium and wherein said data recording medium
7 conveys said medium protection data and said main data in an identical form;
8
9 means for detecting protection position information which specifies
10 respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as
11 positions at which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position
12 information also being conveyed by said data recording medium;
13
14 means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said
15 reproduction apparatus;

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

16 means for defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main
17 data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection
18 data in combination; and
19 means for executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
20 protection level and said protection position information.

1 19 (Currently Amended). A reproduction protection method providing
2 reproduction protection, for operating on main data which are conveyed by a data
3 recording medium and which express a single original signal, the method
4 comprising the steps of:

5 detecting medium protection data which are respectively specific to [[each
6 of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main data, which
7 express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a medium
8 protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also conveyed
9 by said data recording medium;

10 wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data
11 and said main data in an identical form;

12 detecting protection position information which specifies respective
13 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at
14 which to apply said reproduction protection, said protection position information
15 also being conveyed by said data recording medium;

16 generating apparatus protection data which are specific to a reproduction

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

17 apparatus operating on said main data;
18 defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main data
19 portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data
20 in combination; and
21 executing reproduction of said main data in accordance with said
22 protection level and said protection position information.

I
1 20 (Currently Amended). A data recording medium for transferring main
2 data which express a single original signal to a reproduction apparatus, to
3 reproduce said main data by said reproduction apparatus, characterized in that:
4 said data recording medium further transfers medium protection data which
5 are respectively specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions
6 within said main data, and which express for each said predetermined data portion
7 of said main data a medium protection level as a predetermined number of units,
8 and moreover transfers protection position information which specifies respective
9 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at
10 which to apply said reproduction protection;
11 wherein said data recording medium conveys said medium protection data
12 and said main data in an identical form;
13 said reproduction apparatus generates apparatus protection data which are
14 specific to said reproduction apparatus;
15 said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data in

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

16 combination specify [[a degree]] respective degrees of restriction on said
17 reproduction of said portions of the main data by said reproduction apparatus, and
18 said reproduction of the main data is executed in accordance with said
19 [[degree]] degrees of restriction, specified by said medium protection data
20 transferred by said recording medium and said apparatus protection data, and in
21 accordance with said protection position information transferred by said recording
22 medium.

I
1 21 (Currently Amended). A decoding apparatus providing decoding
2 protection, for operating on information which is [[transferred]] conveyed by a
3 data recording medium and which comprises main data that are to be decoded and
4 which express a single original signal, and medium protection data, the apparatus
5 comprising:
6 means for detecting said medium protection data, which are respectively
7 specific to [[each of]] one or more predetermined data portions within said main
8 data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a
9 medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also
10 [[transferred]] conveyed by said recording medium, [[and]] wherein said recording
11 medium [[transfers]] conveys said medium protection data and said main data in
12 an identical form;
13 means for detecting protection position information which specifies
14 respective positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

15 positions at which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position
16 information also being [[transferred]] conveyed by said recording medium;

17 means for generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said
18 decoding apparatus;

19 means for defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] levels for said main
20 data portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection
21 data, in combination; and

22 means for executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said
23 protection [[level]] levels and said protection position information.

1 22 (Currently Amended). A decoding protection method providing decoding
2 protection in a decoding apparatus, for operating on information which is
3 transferred by a recording medium and which comprises main data to be decoded
4 and medium protection data, said main data expressing a single original signal, the
5 method comprising the steps of:

6 detecting said medium protection data[[,]] which are respectively specific to
7 [[each of one or more]] a plurality of predetermined data portions within said main
8 data, which express for each said predetermined data portion of said main data a
9 medium protection level as a predetermined number of units and which are also
10 transferred by said recording medium, [[and wherein]] said recording medium
11 [[transfers]] transferring said medium protection data and said main data in an
12 identical form;

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

13 detecting protection position information which specifies respective
14 positions of said predetermined data portions within said main data as positions at
15 which to apply said decoding protection, said protection position information also
16 being transferred by said recording medium;

17 generating apparatus protection data which are specific to said decoding
18 apparatus;

19 defining [[a]] respective protection [[level]] lcvcls for said main data
20 portions based on said medium protection data and said apparatus protection data,
21 in combination; and

22 executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection
23 [[level]] levels and said protection position information.

23-27 (Cancelled).

1 28 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18,
2 wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second
3 set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said
4 reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction
6 apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition
7 information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

Serial No. 09/469,49

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

1 29 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to
2 claim 19, wherin said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a
3 second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of
4 said reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said
5 user, said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said
6 reproduction apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies
7 operating condition information other than information which is specific to said
8 region or country.

1 30 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20,
2 wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second
3 set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said
4 reproduction apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said reproduction
6 apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition
7 information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

1 31 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21,
2 wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a second
3 set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of said
4 decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user, said
5 first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

6 apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition
7 information other than information which is specific to said region or country.

1 32 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim
2 22, wherein said apparatus protection data comprises a first set of data and a
3 second set of data such that said first set of data cannot be modified by a user of
4 said decoding apparatus and said second set of data can be modified by said user,
5 said first set of data is specific to a region or a country in which said decoding
6 apparatus is to be used, and said second set of data specifies operating condition
7 information other than information which is specific to said region or country

1 33 (Previously Presented). A reproduction apparatus as recited in claim 18,
2 wherein said means for executing reproduction of said main data operates for
3 implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by restricting reproduction
4 thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position
5 information.

1 34 (Previously Presented). A reproduction protection method as recited in
2 claim 19, wherein said step of executing reproduction of said main data comprises
3 the further step of implementing a protection of the reproduced main data by
4 restricting reproduction thereof in accordance with said protection level and said
5 protection position information.

Serial No. 09/469,49

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

1 35 (Previously Presented). A data recording medium as recited in claim 20,
2 wherein said reproduction of said main data is restricted in accordance with said
3 protection level and said protection position information.

1 36 (Previously Presented). A decoding apparatus as recited in claim 21,
2 wherein said means for executing decoding of said main data operates for
3 implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting decoding
4 thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection position
5 information.

1 37 (Previously Presented). A decoding protection method apparatus as
2 recited in claim 22, wherein said step of executing decoding of said main data
3 operates for implementing a protection of the decoded main data by restricting
4 decoding thereof in accordance with said protection level and said protection
5 position information.

1 38 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more
4 frames of said video signal.

Serial No. 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

1 39 (Previously Presented). The reproduction apparatus according to claim 18,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within
4 each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video
5 signal.

1 40 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to
2 claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more
4 frames of said video signal.

1 41 (Previously Presented). The reproduction protection method according to
2 claim 19, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within
4 each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video
5 signal.

1 42 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said

Serial No.: 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

3 predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more
4 frames of said video signal.

1 43 (Previously Presented). The data recording medium according to claim 20,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within
4 each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video
5 signal.

1 44 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more
4 frames of said video signal.

1 45 (Previously Presented). The decoding apparatus according to claim 21,
2 wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within
4 each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video
5 signal.

Serial No. 09/469,499

Corrected Response to Office Action Mailed July 29, 2003
March 8, 2004

1 46 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim
2 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents a predetermined sequence of one or more
4 frames of said video signal.

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1 47 (Previously Presented). The decoding protection method according to claim
2 22, wherein said main data represent a video signal and wherein each of said
3 predetermined data portions represents one or more predetermined regions within
4 each of a sequence of one or more predetermined sequential frames of said video
5 signal.